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SUBJECT SOVIET MEDICAL CLAIMS

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I. TREATMENT OF DISEASES

Pernicious Anemia: Twelve types of the Vitamin B group are known. Vitamin B-12 "helps in the formation of blood matter and is of great value in fighting pernicious anemia," which can be "cured within two to three weeks with the aid of Vitamin B-12 solution." (Professor Bukin, head of the Vitamin Laboratory of the Biochemical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.)

High Blood Pressure: A new drug, Feratizin, is being used to reduce high blood pressure. It may be given orally or by injections.

Duodenal Ulcers: "A prolonged application of diathermy gives excellent results in the case of an ulcerous disease of the stomach and of the duodenum."

Hypertension: "The introduction of a bromal compound into the organism with the help of direct current is being effected." Experiments have shown that this method has a salutary effect on patients suffering from hypertension.

Tuberculosis: "The Tuberculosis Institute has worked out a method of curing tuberculosis by Soviet-produced streptomycin."

Pneumonia, Malaria: Incidence greatly reduced, it is claimed.

Cholera, Plague: Both are "things of the past."

Cancer: One of the principal problems being worked on by the USSR Academy of Sciences.

II. NEW TECHNIQUES

Cardiac Transplantation: Soviet scientist Denikhov reports the successful transplanting of a second heart into the thorax of a dog.

Ice in Surgery: From Korea comes news of a new method "perfected by Soviet medicine" of treating the wounds of soldiers. Described as successful but "very complicated," the method involves the use of ice in surgical operations. No further relevant details are supplied.

Longevity: Soviet biologist, Professor Olga Lepeshinskaya, has "proved by numerous experiments" that one of the important methods for the rejuvenation of the cell is to affect it by a solution of sodium bicarbonate which "invigorates the metabolism, lessens muscular tiredness, and contributes to the general tone of man."

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- 2 -

This is a corollary to the Professor's law that "The state of the organism and its functioning totally depend on the state of albumens and their metabolism," and that "in order to combat age, it is necessary to hinder the progress of the thickening of the cell envelope and prevent the growth of (molecular?) albumen."

Penicillin in Small Doses: Dr. I. V. Neseterov, head of the surgical branch of the Yalta Hospital, has shown the effectiveness of a new method of using small, rather than large doses of penicillin to prevent post-operative infections. The USSR Ministry of Health has proposed that all health organs use the Nesterov method "on a broad scale."

Cornea Transplants: A Korean eye specialist at Tientsin Medical College "has restored sight to countless blind persons" since 1948, by using (Shilatov's) technique of transplanting corneas.

III. NEW PROCESSES AND INVENTIONS

New Drugs: A new non-habit-forming painkiller, Fenagon (phon.) has been developed by the Ordjonekidze All-Union Scientific and Research Chemical and Pharmaceutical Institute, and is being used for kidney colic, internal ulcers, neuralgia, and post-operationally. The new drug can be taken as a powder or may be injected in solution.

Another new vegetable alkaloid, Feratizin, is used to reduce high blood pressure. (See Section I.)

A Special Sponge for Brain Operations makes possible the stopping of bleeding in surgical operations of the brain.

Elastic Grafts of Skin contribute to the swift recovery of the patient after the healing of the nerves, according to the Leningrad Research Institute for Neurosurgery.

Pulmotors: Artificial breathing apparatus, "considerably superior to foreign types," have been constructed.

Sewing Machine: A surgical sewing machine has been developed by Soviet medicine, it is reported.

Aminoacids: Methods for synthesizing twenty aminoacids have been worked out by the Institute of Biological and Medical Chemistry.

Molecular Distillation: A centrifuge designed by the Moscow Biochemistry Institute purifies various oils through "molecular distillation." Vitamin A extracted in this way is 100 to 150 times more concentrated than chemically extracted Vitamin A.

IV. PUBLIC AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

Health and Safety in the Mines:

Ultraviolet treatment chambers have been set up where miners and subway construction workers are treated at the end of the day. Donbas miners are not only given the sunlamp treatments but "are made to inhale menthol fumes to clear their lungs," as well.

The government has installed 750 ventilators in the mines, some of which can extract ten thousand cubic meters of air per minute.

Special sprinklers have been installed on coal-hewing machines and combines to protect the miners with water screens.

Air Conditioning:

The air of Moscow has become "sweeter and cleaner" due to the introduction of soot and gas collectors in factory chimneys. Such devices are being fitted in all new enterprises and workshops, reports Comrade Lipkin, Chairman of the State Sanitary Inspection Office.

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Medicated Mud:

Numerous bulletins describe the spa facilities available to the workers where medicinal springs and mud baths are among the health services offered.

V. CLAIMS, RESEARCH, ETC.

Penicillin was discovered by Professor (Yermoliev?) "and proved a valuable medicine during the war."

Professor (Krasilnikov?) has shown that antibodies exist in sea and fresh water, since typhoid and dysentery bacilli eventually die in salt water. The Professor, "following Michurin's theories," has also shown that antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria can be bred. He is now working on the problem of destroying the immunity thus conferred on the resistant strains.

Medical Literature:

During the past five years, the Medical Literature Publishing House has issued more than 2500 titles.

Soviet scientists are working on a 35-volume work: "Experience of Soviet Medicine in the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945." Twelve volumes have already appeared.

A six-volume encyclopedic dictionary of war medicine has been published.

Research Institutions:

Among the research establishments of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences are the Institutes of Physiology, Experimental Medicine, Experimental Biology, Microbiology, Epidemiology, Tuberculosis, and Neurosurgery.

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